

For all the problems I have spoken about, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has a solution. This law will invest over \$26 billion in funding for better roads and bridges built to last and to handle future growth. It will also invest \$3.3 billion to improve public transit options that reduce congestion and improve transportation for everyone. Texans will also benefit from a \$3.5 billion program in this law that will protect power systems from weather emergencies like the winter storm.

But this law doesn't just solve today's problems. It is also about preparing us for tomorrow's opportunities.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will deliver reliable internet access to rural Texas communities by investing over \$100 million in expanding coverage. This will allow rural Texans to finally access jobs and commerce that were previously locked away.

This bill will also prepare Texas for electric vehicles of the future by investing nearly half a billion dollars to build our charging station network.

Mr. Speaker, Texas is facing serious infrastructure problems. But this law is the solution. I am proud that this money will soon flow directly to communities in my State and improve lives.

Thanks to the leadership of President Biden, Speaker PELOSI, Leader SCHUMER, and some of our friends across the aisle, this bipartisan infrastructure bill will send help, and it is on the way.

MARC MOEN IS KEEPING IOWA BEAUTIFUL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a man from my district for his commitment to keeping Iowa beautiful and preserving some of our most treasured historical sites.

Marc Moen, a developer in Iowa City, was recently presented with the Iowa Architectural Foundation's 2021 Community Enhancement Through Architecture and Design Award. The awards program recognizes individuals, organizations, agencies, or communities outside the architectural profession who have demonstrated consistent and effective leadership, vision, and support for architecture, or have continually championed the cause of architecture in ways that contribute to the betterment of Iowa communities.

Marc began his architectural work in 1985 when he advocated to save the first brick house in Iowa City from being razed and began restoring the building instead. Since then, Marc has worked to make Iowa City the beautiful community it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Marc for his dedication to our community and to our State.

LEWIS PAYNE IS CARRYING ON IOWA'S FAMILY FARM HERITAGE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a man from my district for continuing his family legacy of leadership in Iowa agriculture.

This year, Lewis Payne of Kalona was awarded the Heritage Award by the Iowa Farm Bureau. The Heritage Award recognizes agriculture industry leaders who have carried on the tradition of farming family-owned land.

Known as the Pickard Farm, Lewis' 261.4-acre plot of land was originally purchased by his great-great-grand uncle over 172 years ago and was passed from Lewis' great-grandfather down to his grandfather, then eventually to his mother, who then passed the land down to Lewis, who had been raised on that farm helping his parents.

When asked about the future of his family farm, Lewis said that his goal is to be a steward of the land and eventually pass it down to the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Lewis for continuing a fantastic Iowa family tradition and for making Iowa a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

4 PAWS FOR ABILITY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a heartwarming story about total strangers coming together to make a positive impact in a child's life in my district.

Six-year-old Keagan Berding of Bettendorf, Iowa, loves to run. Diagnosed with autism at the age of 2, Keagan is nonverbal, but he is very social and has several passions, including playing outside with other children, showing affection through hugs, and watching videos on his tablet.

Because of Keagan's love of running, extra measures are needed to ensure his safety, and this is where a fantastic organization has come in to assist Keagan and his parents. 4 Paws for Ability is a group that provides and trains service animals to assist people like the Berding family across the globe. Currently the organization has raised over \$43,000 toward providing Keagan with a fully trained service dog, with the largest single donation being \$10,000 from a complete stranger whose own child has benefited from a service animal.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for 4 Paws for Ability and everyone who has contributed for striving to make positive impacts in the lives of children like Keagan all over the world.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say enough is enough. Enough is enough.

Enough gun violence in our schools, enough children hiding in fear, and enough parents trembling in terror as they search for any news of their own kids.

There were 100 calls made to 9-1-1 in Oxford yesterday. Hundreds of children were stuck in their classrooms crying out for help. Hundreds of kids were scared to death that this would be their last day of school.

We have our young people learning how best to survive a shooter in between math and science class. Six year olds were asked to figure out for themselves whether they have a better chance to survive if they hide in a closet or if they should rush the gunman.

And then, on days like yesterday, days that repeat with the same frequency as this body's failure to respond, we hear the stories of teenagers texting their parents from behind a desk saying things like: Mom, if I don't make it, I love you, and I appreciate everything that you have done for me. Parents were begging their children to "barricade yourselves behind doors, hide in classrooms, and, please, hold your tears, you cannot make a sound."

This Chamber has heard much about God since men first stood within these hallowed Halls. This Chamber has heard much about the God-given rights our Creator inalienably endowed.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask you then: What rights has God given our children?

Do they enjoy the God-given right to exist in their schools without fear of death or gun violence?

Do American parents have the God-given right to drop their children off at school and expect to see them come home at night?

Parents from Columbine to Sandy Hook to Parkland have had to bury their babies. And the children who survived have had to live with the trauma that only stepping over a friend painted in blood could ever bring.

Do we, as a nation, have the God-given right to live free from this epidemic of gun violence, of senseless loss, and of unimaginable pain?

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of you here today to put yourselves in the shoes of those parents. Put yourselves in the shoes of the mothers and the fathers who have gasped for air when desperation would not let them breathe. Put yourself in the shoes of all those who have sunk to their knees when the agony would not let them stand.

Mr. Speaker, do you have the courage to do that, to feel what it might be like to bury your own child, to suffer with your God day after day to make sense of the senseless, unnecessary gun violence?

Mr. Speaker, do you have the courage?

Does this body have the courage to do what is right and to save our children and to protect our families?

And if not, Mr. Speaker, do you really, truly, have the courage to look away?

AMERICA'S PETROLEUM RESERVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.